

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ORIOL VILLAESCUSA BOTH REPORTED WELL: GOVERNMENT PLEASED
INVESTIAGTIONS CONTINUING

REF: MADRID 1143

1. IN A LATE EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 11, INTERIOR
MINISTER MARTIN VILLA REVEALED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF
DETAIL ABOUT THE POLICE OPERATIONS THAT RESCUED ORIOL AND
VILLAESCUSA, EXPLAINING THAT INVESTIGATIONS WERE
CONTINUING. HE PRAISED THE POLICE, THANKED THE PRESS
(ESPECIALLY INFORMACIONES AND EL PAIS, WHICH GRAPO HAD USED
FOR ITS COMMUNICATIONS), AND POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVT HAD
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BEEN CRITICIZED BOTH FOR DOING TOO MUCH AND FOR NOT DOING
ENOUGH BUT TURNED OUT TO HAVE BEEN RIGHT.

2. MARTIN VILLA VOWED CONTINUING EFFORTS ON THE STILL
UNRESOLVED CASES OF THE STUDENT SLAIN IN THE PRO AMNESTY
DEMONSTRATION (IN WHICH ONE ARGENTINE SUSPECT HAS BEEN
ARRESTED) AND THE FIVE COMMUNIST LABOR LAWYERS FOR WHICH

HE PROMISED THE "SAME ENTHUSIASM" THE SAME DEDICATION AND THE SAME EFFORT, HE ALSO NOTED THAT TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE WERE POSSIBLE AND PRAISED THE UNDERSTANDING AND LACK OF EXTREMISM SHOWN BY THE SPANISH PEOPLE.

3. REPORTEDLY SOME 25-30 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, SOME OF THEM BEFORE THE RESCUE OPERATION, BUT DIFFERENT NUMBERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN. ONLY FOUR NAMES WERE RELEASED, OF THOSE IDENTIFIED AS THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS, ABELARDO COLLAZO ARAUJO MANUEL GIL ARAUJO, OLEGARIO SANCHES CORRALES, AND JUAN JOSE DIAZ FERNANEZ. VALENCIA POLICE CHIEF ROBERTO CONESA, WHOSE INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE LED AUTHORITIES TO BRING HIM IN TO DIRECT THE CASE. SAID HE HAD BEGUN WITH THE LEADS DEVELOPED BY MADRID POLICE AND HAD FOLLOWED ON FROM THERE. THE ACTUAL RESCUE WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE DGS NOT THE GUARDIA CIIL AS EARLIER REPORTED.

4. CONESA EMPHASIZED THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN GRAPO'S ACTIONS AND METHODS AND THOSE EMPLOYED BY SIMILAR GROUPS IN THE PAST, ALTHOUGH HE ADDED THAT GRAPO HAD EVIDENTLY ASSIMILATED PAST EXPERIENCES. HE ALSO SAID THAT GRAPO'S ISOLATION WITH THE LEFT, AN ISOLATION BASED ON THE OPPOSITION VIOLENCE TO EVEN OF ITS PARENT ORGANIZATION, THE PCE-R MEANT THAT IT ORGANIZATION BEGAN TO BREAK DOWN (DATES NOT KEPT, CONTACTS NOT MADE), AND ITS MORALE TO DROP. "THIS DEGREE OF DEMORALIZATION", SAID CONESA, "MADE US THINK THAT ORIOL AND VILLAESCUSA WOULD NOT SUFFER VIOLENCE WHEN WE LOCATED THEM".

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5. UNDERCOVER POLICEMEN WERE APPARENTLY A BIG PART OF THE OPERATION. SOME OF THEM WERE PRESENTED TO REPORTERS AFTER PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE MADE TO LEAVE, AND THEIR EVIDENT AUTHENTICITY BOTH IMPRESSED REPORTERS AND (ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE AGENTS) ORIGINALLY LED VILLAESCUSA TO BELIEVE THEY WERE GRAPO MEMBERS PLAYING SOME KIND OF TRICK.

6. VILLAESCUSA REMAINED IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT ACCORDING TO ALL ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING ONE HIMSELF SENT TO REPORTERS, HE IS IN GOOD SHAPE. REPORTEDLY HIS KINAPPERS KEPT UP HIS MEDICATION IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH HIS DOCTORS INSTRUCTIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT CARRY OUT THE INDICATED TESTS. ORIOL, WHO PROMPTLY REJOINED HIS FAMILY AND MET WITH REPORTERS AT HIS HOUSE, WAS CLEARLY IN GOOD SHAPE AND SPIRITS, AND HIGHLIGHTED THE CORDIAL RELATIONS THAT PREVAILED THROUGHOUT BETWEEN HIM AND HIS CAPTORS. (BOTH MEN WERE MOVED TO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS PERIODICALLY, COMING TOGETHER FOR SOME TEN OR ELEVEN DAYS.) ORIOL SPOKE OF CONSIDERATE FEEDING, CARD GAMES AND AMICABLE POLITICAL

DISCUSSIONS (WHICH HAD NOT CHANGES HIS POLITICAL VIEWS),
GAVE A GOOD BY KISS TO A YOUNG FEMALE AT THE APARTMENT
WHERE HE WAS RESCUED, AND AFTERWARDS INQUIRED ANXIOUSLY
AFTER THE GIRLS INFANT SON, WHOSE TRAIL OF BABY BOTTLES
APPARENTLY HELPED POLICE LOCATE HIM.

7. IN THE MIDST OF THE JUBILATION WITH
WHICH THE RESCUE OF THE TWO MEN IS BEING GREETED THE
GOVT HAS REASONABLY POINTED OUT THAT TERRORISTS INCIDENTS
ARE STILL POSSIBLE. THAT THE GRAPO IS NOT ENTIRELY WRAPPED
UP AND THAT THEY STILL MUST DEAL WITH THE SLAUGHTER OF
THE FIVE COMMUNIST LABOR LAWYERS INDICATING THEREBY ITS
INTENTION TO PROSECUTE INVESTIGATIONS VIGOROUSLY AGAINST
TERRORISTS ACTIONS NOT ONLY OF THE FAR LEFT BUT THOSE THOUGHT
TO BE OF THE FAR RIGHT. THRE PRESS HAS UNANIMOUSLY POINTED
OUT THAT BRILLIANT POLICE WORK FINALLY BROUGHT THE CASE TO
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A CONCLUSION AND THAT THIS WILL BE A MAJOR
MORALE BOOST FOR THE PUBLIC ORDER FORCES, WHOSE
REPUTATION HAS BEEN IN SOME DISARRY. ON A LARGER SCALE IT WAS
UNANIMOUS IN JUDGING THAT THE RELEASE OF ORIOL AND VILLAESCUSA AND
THE ARRESTS OF KIDNAPPERS HAVE BROUGHT THE DEMOCRATIZATION
PROCESS THROUGH A MAJOR CHALLENGE AND BOLSTERED THE SUAREZ
GOVT AND THE PERSONAL POSITION OF MARTIN VILLA. THE RELATIVELY
LIBERAL MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WHO HAD COME UNDER
CONSIDERABLE ATTACK FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS FOR THE INABILITY
OF THE GOS TO CRACK THE CASE. IN A REMINDER THAT TERRORISM
STILL IS A PROBLEM, THE SAME DAY OF THE RELEASE OF ORIOL
AND VILLAESCUSA, TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY FROM PCE-R KILLED
A BARCELONA POLICEMAN, BUT THE POLICE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED
THE MEN THEY BELIEVE TO HAVE PERPETRATED THE
ASSISSINATION.STABLER

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